

United States of America

DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Agenda Item 1.14: to consider measures to address harmful interference in the bands allocated to the maritime mobile and aeronautical mobile (R) services, taking into account Resolutions **207 (Rev.WRC-2000)** and **350 (WRC-2000)**, and to review the frequency and channel arrangements in the maritime MF and HF bands concerning the use of new digital technology, also taking into account Resolution **347 (WRC-97)**;

Background Information: In an ongoing effort to reduce interference to HF distress and safety frequencies used in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), WRC-2000 determined that after 31 December 2003, general calling should not be permitted on channels used for distress and safety traffic. The radio regulations now permit routine voice calling on the two GMDSS duplex distress and safety traffic channels in the 12 and 16 MHz band. WRC-2000 actions removed the calling function on these two channels. It also changed these duplex channels to simplex channels, allocating one of the simplex channels for routine calling via radiotelephone and the other as dedicated for distress and safety communications. These changes are scheduled to take effect 31 December 2003. This change will result in a financial and personnel impact to maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) authorities that maintain listening watch in these bands, and receive occasional routine radiotelephone calls in addition to distress and safety calls. Removal of the ability of shore stations that have search and rescue responsibilities to receive and make routine calls on these frequencies will result in the receiving of distress and safety calls on a working channel not designated for distress and safety purposes. This has caused some confusion to mariners wishing to send distress and safety calls.

A second related issue involves a need for more effective methods for ships and coast stations to call ships using Digital Selective Calling (DSC) for routine communications. ITU Radio Regulations effectively prohibit ships and coast stations from making routine calls to other ships using DSC, and other alternatives do not exist. Channels are available for ships making routine calls to coast stations, and these channels should continue to be used. But ships do not guard these routine calling channels, and so cannot accept routine calls from coast stations. Simplex HF DSC channels allowing routine calls from other ships do not exist, and experience has shown that the number of such calls would be small, and should not interfere with the distress and safety uses of this channel.

Proposal:

USA/ / 1 **MOD**

52.221A 2) Calling on the carrier frequencies 12 290 kHz and 16 420 kHz ~~shall cease as soon as possible and no later than 31 December 2003~~ is permitted only to and from rescue coordination centres (see No. 30.6.1). The alternative carrier frequencies 12 359 kHz and 16 537 kHz may be used by ship stations and coast stations for calling on a simplex basis, provided that the peak envelope power does not exceed 1 kW.

Reasons: The addition in this footnote permits calling to and from stations that have search and rescue responsibilities, i.e., rescue coordination centres. Because of the very limited number of rescue coordination centres that are, or plan to be, operating in these bands, the additional traffic and potential for interfering with distress and safety traffic is very low. Additionally, this allows a vessel in a

distress situation to communicate on these channels rather than making a distress call on a working channel; hence, de facto changing the working channel into the distress and safety channel. Monitoring of these two frequencies at the U.S. Coast Guard Communications Master Stations Atlantic have shown very little traffic on these channels.

APPENDIX 15

TABLE 15-1

Legend:

USA/ / 2 MOD

DSC These frequencies are used exclusively for distress and safety calls using digital selective calling in accordance with No. **32.5** (see Nos. **32.9**, **33.11** and **33.34**). Exceptionally, however these frequencies may also be used for ship-to-ship and shore-to-ship routine calling if no other means are available and if no traffic is present on the channel (see No. **31.4**).

Reasons: This will facilitate communications to and from ships that are outside coverage of VHF radiotelephone frequencies, where no other means of DSC calling exist. This change includes the requirement to ensure no communications is present before making a routine call. It allows DSC-equipped radios to meet the recommendations of International Maritime Organization that GMDSS equipment not be reserved for emergency use only, as described in IMO COMSAR Circ. 17.